

## Artists BIO

**Bascha Mon**

Bascha Mon, born in 1932 in Newark, NJ, is known for her evocative work that blends personal experience with abstract and representational forms. Now based in Long Valley, NJ, Mon's work channels a rich tapestry of daily experiences, including themes of identity, personal relationships, memory, migration, and nature through painting, sculpture, encaustics, and installation.

Mon earned a degree in French and Spanish literature from Skidmore College before embarking on her artistic journey in her 30s, following years devoted to motherhood and family life. After spending five years teaching elementary students in public schools, she chose to explore a new path in art. She studied at the Art Students League, igniting a lifelong passion for color, experimentation, and an unwavering pursuit of new artistic challenges. Mon has since shared her expertise and enthusiasm by teaching at various institutions, including the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts, Hunterdon Art Museum, Somerset Art Association and through private instruction.

Recent exhibitions like *New Land* and the collaborative *Flags for the New Land* at the Center for Contemporary Art in Bedminster, NJ (2019), highlight Mon's deep engagement with the emotional landscapes of immigrants and refugees. Approaching the age of 92, Mon continues to translate her unconscious and personal memories onto works on paper, deeply influenced by and harmonizing with the music of Olivier Messiaen.

Mon's contributions to art have been recognized through fellowships from the New Jersey State Council for the Arts and the New York Foundation for the Arts. Her work is featured in esteemed collections, including the Hunterdon Art Museum, Osaka Contemporary Art Center, State Museum of New Jersey, the Artists' Library at the Victoria & Albert Museum, and the Newark Public Library as well as the Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery at Skidmore College, the Newark Museum and various private collections.

Mon's retrospective at Tappeto Volante Projects, *Bascha Mon: A Celebratory Retrospective of An Artist's Life and Journey of Dreaming, Perseverance, Activism, & Unconscious Expression*, will mark her first New York solo exhibition in 47 years, showcasing her enduring evolution and resilience in expanding the boundaries of expressive storytelling through a lifetime of artistic discovery.

**Angelo Vasta**

Angelo Vasta (b.1987 in Milan, Italy) is a self-taught visual artist working primarily with oil pastels on paper—intimate, tactile works that sit somewhere between drawing and painting. His practice centers on everyday scenes of queer life: invented boys and close friends sipping coffee, napping, dancing, or simply existing in quiet, sunlit spaces. These are moments of intimacy and stillness—Fragments of memory, longing, and imagination. Drawing since childhood, Angelo has always used art as a way to build a sense of home. His work constructs gentle environments filled with patterns, Mediterranean light, and domestic warmth.

Whether inspired by lived experience or fantasy, each piece offers a glimpse into a world that comforts and soothes—a space of safety, softness, and quiet joy. His visual language is shaped by his Italian cultural background, queer culture, and a deep appreciation for the formal qualities found in the works of artists such as Henri Matisse, George Rouault, Raoul Dufy, Milton Avery, Đặng Xuân Hoà, and Alice Neel. From these artists, he draws inspiration in the bold use of color, expressive linework, and a sense of simplicity that gives weight to everyday subjects. Originally from Milan, he is now based in Brooklyn, New York. He studied film at The New School in New York City, and while he has no formal training in visual art, his creative path has always been rooted in drawing. His work has been exhibited at Karma Bird House Gallery (Burlington, Vermont), Tappeto Volante (Brooklyn), and Rebecca Camacho Presents (San Francisco), with upcoming participation in a group show at Marinaro Gallery (New York City) and a solo booth at The Armory Show (New York City) in September 2025, presented by Rebecca Camacho Presents.

**Keiko Narahashi**

Keiko Narahashi creates clay sculptures that spring from a conviction that forms carry emotional and psychological meaning. These shapes waver between the human and nonhuman, figure and landscape, and the ambiguities that permeate memories and daydreams. Her ongoing investigation of the transformations between two and three dimensions began when, as a child, she watched a tin can become flattened by a train.

Although she makes sculptural objects, she often thinks in picture planes like a painter. She builds primarily from clay slabs, drawing cut-lines directly onto the clay so that these drawings themselves become the sculpture. The sculptures often have a frontal quality that she uses to deliberately recall traditional presentations of paintings and photographs, such as in table top picture frames. There is a play with scale; intimations of vastness contained within these miniature worlds.

She received a BFA from Parsons School of Design (1988), and an MFA in Painting from Bard College (1999). Recent exhibitions include Klaus von Nichtssagend Gallery (NYC), Flinn Gallery (Greenwich, CT), Tappeto Volante Projects (Brooklyn), 106 Green, (NYC), Jason McCoy Gallery (NYC), Carvalho Park (Brooklyn), Jack Hanley Gallery (NYC), Underdonk Gallery (Brooklyn), Bennington College Usdan Gallery, and Hofstra University Rosenberg Gallery (NY), among others. She was a recipient of the Marie Walsh Sharpe Foundation studio grant (2005) and a New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship Grant in Painting (2006). Her work has been written about in publications such as *The New Yorker*, *Vogue*, *The Brooklyn Rail*, and *The New York Times*. She was recently featured in *New York Studio Conversations, Part II*, edited by Stephanie Buhmann (The Green Box, Berlin).

She lives and works in New York City.

**Nora Riggs**

Nora Riggs (b. 1972) lives and works in Northampton, Massachusetts. She received her BFA from the Rhode Island School of Design in 1994 and her MFA from Indiana University in 1996. Shortly after completing her studies, she relocated to New York City, where she spent several years working as a night security guard at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. This prolonged and contemplative proximity to the museum's encyclopedic collection deeply informed her artistic development, instilling a nuanced sensitivity to art history, visual storytelling, and the psychology of the image.

Riggs's paintings draw on a diverse array of influences, from the canon of Western art to the visual vernacular of mid-century Americana and 1990s popular culture. Her practice is characterized by an introspective yet slyly irreverent engagement with narrative, often centering on female figures, domestic spaces, and emotional memory. With compositions that are at once intimate and disorienting, she explores the complexities of maternal identity, cultural inheritance, and psychological interiority. Her painterly language is restrained and evocative, marked by a quiet tension between surface clarity and symbolic ambiguity.

Riggs has exhibited in New York, Los Angeles, Georgia, and Massachusetts. Her work has garnered increasing attention for its subtle emotional resonance and idiosyncratic voice within the broader field of contemporary figurative painting.

**Marta Lee**

Marta Lee (b. Moscow, ID) lives and works in Astoria, Queens. She received her BFA from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and an MFA from the University of Texas at Austin. She works collaboratively with Anika Steppe under the moniker Frances Brady.

Lee has been a resident at the Fire Island Artist Residency, Anderson Ranch Arts Center, Hercules Art Studio Program, and the Sam and Adele Golden Foundation for the Arts. Lee has exhibited nationally and internationally in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Austin, London, and Shenzhen.

She is a recipient of the 2024 Rema Hort Mann Foundation Emerging Artist Grant.